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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 641

By Kurita

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Colonel Barbara Anne Darden of Clarksville.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of Barbara Anne Darden on October 28, 1997; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Anne Darden was a distinguished citizen of the state of Tennessee who was very dedicated to her profession, community and family; and

WHEREAS, she will be remembered as a caring and loving lady who would always lend a helping hand to those in need; and

WHEREAS, born on December 7, 1936, she was the daughter of Belle McGhee Darden and the late Dr. Byrns L. Darden; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Darden attended Austin Peay State University and received her master's degree from Webster University in St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, Barbara joined the United States Air Force and served admirably until her retirement in 1986 with the rank of Colonel; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, she attended the prestigious Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, where she was the only woman in the 227 member class; and

WHEREAS, throughout her meritorious tenure in the Air Force, Barbara Darden received numerous awards, including the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award and the National Defense Service Medal; and

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WHEREAS, Ms. Darden was a member of numerous military and civic organizations, including the Delta Kappa Gamma Society, AmVets, the Association of the Air War College, the Resident Associate Program of the Smithsonian Associates, the Air Force Association, the Army/Air Force Mutual Aid Society and the Retired Officers' Association; and

WHEREAS, she was an active and devout member of the First Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, Barbara was an avid violinist and artist, and the beautiful music she created will live forever in our hearts; and

WHEREAS, the legacy Barbara Anne Darden leaves behind will be remembered and treasured by friends and associates for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Darden was the proud mother of Philip B. Francis II, Peggi Celeste Francis, Marianne Francis and Lynn Denise Francis; and

WHEREAS, she was also the cherished sister of Russell Byrns Gammage Darden; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this fine Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Colonel Barbara Anne Darden, remembering with admiration her exemplary character and many selfless contributions to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Barbara Anne Darden.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.